

MILESTONES

WINTER 2003

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Tightly organized Indian tribal units began appearing in the Arsenal area during the early 1500s. The first tribe to occupy this area was the Apache.

RMA Installs METEOROLOGICAL TOWER

"The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind," is how the old song goes. And it's even truer now. A new meteorological tower was installed near the Basin F Wastepile in December 2002. The tower will detect wind speed, wind direction, and vertical mixing, providing answers to many of these questions on a daily basis.

The data collected from this tower will allow RMA experts to monitor and forecast air and odor dispersion conditions.

"The tower data will give us real-time information so we can better predict meteorological conditions. That way we'll know if we can excavate on a particular site on a particular day," said Tim Kilgannon, special projects manager.

In addition to measuring wind speed, direction, and vertical mixing, the tower will measure the temperature at four different heights, precipitation, solar radiation, and provide information that will determine stability. Cables run from the instruments to a data logger at the tower to record readings from the various instruments.

The 40-meter tower will support the Basin F Wastepile Remediation Project, scheduled to begin in 2004. In the meantime, the tower will be used to gain practical knowledge in assessing meteorological conditions. The air dispersion information gained will provide hands-on experience before the Basin F project starts. ■



Preparing the structure for installation.



Installation of the 40-meter tower.

Photos by: Josh Barchers/DPR, Inc.

RMA Cleanup Efforts Once Again NAMED ONE OF THE NATIONS SAFEST

Each year, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) awards the prestigious Star Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) status to deserving facilities that have designed and implemented outstanding health and safety programs. Rocky Mountain Arsenal is very proud to announce that for a second time, its management company is the recipient of this honor. Foster Wheeler Environmental has earned the Star VPP status for extraordinary safety culture and performance record at RMA.

Foster Wheeler Environmental was awarded the Program Management Contract for RMA in 1997 to design remediation projects and select the subcontractors needed to perform the \$2.2 billion cleanup effort. Maintaining Star VPP status is an extraordinary accomplishment and a tremendous milestone for Foster Wheeler and RMA. When Foster Wheeler and the Arsenal first received Star VPP status in 1999, it was the first cleanup project in the country to be honored with the award.

"We are proud of Foster Wheeler's repeat selection to OSHA's Star Program," said RMA Program Manager Charlie Scharmann. "Our number one priority during environmental cleanup work has been the safety of our employees, visitors, and neighbors.

Foster Wheeler continues to exceed industry safety standards, and continues to help facilitate the safe, cost-effective, and timely transition of the site to a

national wildlife refuge."

OSHA's re-evaluation team spent a week at RMA, touring major work areas, pouring through administrative records, and interviewing more than 60 employees on site. Every three years, applicants are subjected to a rigorous week-long on-site evaluation by OSHA, which culminates in a report recommending Star VPP status for those companies with superior health and safety programs. While at RMA, the OSHA team leader noted that RMA is the only site she had visited that passed the re-evaluation process with zero OSHA requirement violations.

Star VPP recognizes participants who have successfully incorporated safety and health programs into their total management systems, resulting in

fewer workplace injuries than their industry counterparts. Participants' health and safety programs must have a high degree of management support and employee involvement; include a high-quality work site analysis program; embody hazard prevention and control; and assure that all employees receive comprehensive safety and health training.

"The continued focus which Foster Wheeler places on safety at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal project is clearly evident in this repeat accomplishment," said Thomas Kivett, Foster Wheeler Program Manager. ■

"We are proud of Foster Wheeler's repeat selection to OSHA's Star Program"

RMA Program Manager Charlie Scharmann



L. to R. Andy Strickland of Foster Wheeler, Terry Terry of OSHA, Rich Gioscia, Tom Kivett, and Don Rogers of Foster Wheeler, and Charlie Scharmann RMA Program Manager accept the Star VPP award.

Photo by: Josh Barchers/DPRA, Inc.

Egli Farm **READY FOR WINDMILL**



The Egli homestead as seen in 1937.

The only early homestead still standing in its original location on Arsenal grounds belonged to the Egli Family. Now, with a little help from historical photos of the area and consultation with a family member, a feature that once graced many homesteads will once again be part of the Egli Farm landscape. The Arsenal has pinpointed where a new windmill soon will be erected, standing in for the farm's original windmill that was removed in 1942.

"The windmill is in a lot of the old photographs," said Laurie Shannon, refuge planner for the Arsenal. "The windmill was a dominant feature, and-along with the Highline Canal, it was how the Egli family got its water on the farm." Shannon said that the family had two windmills over the course of their residence, one wooden and later one metal. The replica that was recently delivered to the Arsenal is a metal windmill. The windmill was made by "Fairbury," a company that once manufactured windmills in Denver. Shannon said they are unsure if it's the exact model and brand as the original metal windmill. "We wanted to acquire a wooden windmill, but the cost was prohibitive at this time," she said.

Rose and Gottlieb Egli built their home around 1910. The family's homestead consisted of a one-and-a-half-story house, garage, bunk house, chicken house, barn, and a windmill that pumped water from an artesian well. Through partnerships and grants, the Service hopes to restore the homestead, starting with the exterior, and perhaps one day open it for the public to tour. Recently the house was listed in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties in recognition of the property's contribution to the heritage of the State of Colorado.

Mary Peil, RMA photo librarian, said that old photographs of the house and windmill show that the windmill was on the southeast side of the house, in the back. "We're trying to restore it in the same spot," said Peil.

The windmill has arrived at the Arsenal and will be set up in the next few months. "We would like to have the windmill fully operational at some point in the future," said Shannon. She said they are considering running clean water from the Visitor's Center through a pipe as opposed to having a groundwater well. "We may have a holding tank near the windmill. The main idea is that kids can experience what it was like to pump water and

at the same time learn about the role that water has played in the site's history." Of course with the present drought, that may be a while.

One of the main messages of the future educational program at Lake Mary revolves around the theme of water in the arid west and it's importance to farm families like the Eglis, in addition to its impact for wildlife on the Refuge. ■

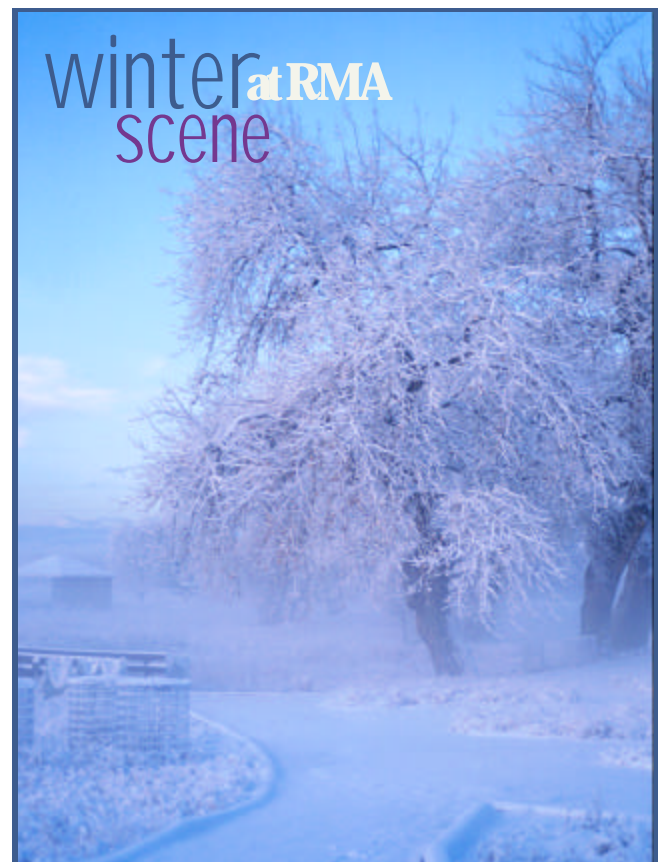


Photo by: Josh Barchers/DPPA, Inc.

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

This is a joint publication produced by:



What does President Theodore Roosevelt, a time capsule, and Florida's Pelican Island all have in common? They're all part of the National Wildlife Refuge System's Centennial Celebration happening March 14, 2003. This special day will celebrate a century of conservation at all 540 National Wildlife Refuges across the country.

On March 14, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt set aside five acres of a small island off the coast of Florida, known as Pelican Island, to protect Florida's brown pelican colony from the demand for feathers for ladies' hats. This began the movement for preserving and protecting wildlife and their habitat which has developed into what we now call the National Wildlife Refuge System. Today, the Refuge System orchestrates the delicate balance of conserving our nation's wildlife while providing wildlife-dependent recreation for all people to enjoy.

To celebrate this significant Centennial milestone, each Refuge will conduct its own ceremony that will include sealing specific items unique to each Refuge in its own time capsule. Each timecapsule will be re-opened 100 years from now. Potential items for RMA National Wildlife Refuge's time capsule include student essays, an employee's timesheet, photographs of the site and copies of historical documents. During the time capsule ceremony, the RMA Wildlife Society will present a scholarship to a high school senior who wins the essay contest.

Help celebrate a century of conservation for wild places and wild things by visiting RMA National Wildlife Refuge on weekends for special programs, tours, and interactive learning stations. The Refuge is open every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ■

MILESTONES

Comments are always welcome.

Please forward to:

Public Relations Department
Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Bldg. 111
Commerce City, CO 80022

(303) 289-0136

www.rma.army.mil

Chief Public Relations
Ruth Mecham

Editor
Susan Ulrich

DPRA, Inc.,
Media Design Group

Writers
Carla Johnson, Kymn Fischer

Art Director/Graphic Designer
Kathy Fisher

Photographers
Rich Keen • Josh Barchers